

FIREFIGHTER/OPERATOR

(Competitive Class)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS

The class of Firefighter/Operator comprises entrance level positions in the fire suppression division of the fire department. Employees of this class receive training in and perform firefighting and other tasks such as controlling and extinguishing fires, operating fire equipment, performing rescue work, driving fire apparatus, and maintaining fire department equipment and vehicles. Firefighter/Operators respond to all emergency calls and provide first aid and emergency medical care to the sick or injured at the scene. Employees of this class receive specific instructions for most duties and are directly supervised by a Fire Captain. This class ranks immediately below that of Fire Captain.

EXAMPLES OF WORK

Examples listed below are illustrative only. They are not intended to include all duties which may be assigned, neither are they intended to exclude other duties which may be logical assignments to this class.

Responds to all fire and medical emergency calls received by the department. Trains for, performs, and maintains proficiency in firefighting and rescue tasks such as connecting, carrying, and operating hose lines; connecting nozzles and directing fire streams; performing forcible entry and ventilation operations; using portable breathing apparatus or air packs; selecting, maneuvering and climbing ladders; and operating any other equipment to aid in fighting fires or removing fire and accident victims to safety. Drives or rides in fire apparatus or emergency vehicle to and from the scene. Communicates with dispatcher and fire vehicles using two-way radio. Ensures a timely response to the emergency scene by taking shortest route available and evaluating navigational problems. Observes the burning structure and fireground to locate the source of the fire, victims, water supplies and exposures. Evaluates the potential effects of environmental conditions on the fire. Positions apparatus and determines the length and number of hose lines necessary for fire suppression. Dismounts apparatus with tools for hydrant connection, pulls hose from bed and connects hose lines to hydrant or other water supply source. Protects hose lines from damage by using hose ramp. Primes and operates pumper to supply adequate pressure to the nozzle. Operates and controls portable, fixed, or large-caliber water streams in order to extinguish fire and protect exposures. Inspects charged hose line for kinks and repairs or replaces burst hose sections. Assists in maintaining control of charged hose lines. Performs automatic sprinkler and standpipe system operations. Observes and responds to changing fireground conditions, notifying officer in charge. Evaluates the stability of supporting surfaces to determine if a position is safe for

firefighting crews. Maintains awareness of other firefighters' efforts and assists them to ensure a safe and coordinated performance.

Notifies occupants or neighbors to vacate premises due to safety concerns. Maintains limited crowd and traffic control at the scene until police arrive. Participates in search and rescue operations to locate and free trapped or unconscious victims. Moves heavy objects, cuts open vehicles or machinery, and removes electrical wires in order to remove people from life-threatening situations. Carries or assists victims away from danger and examines them for signs of injury and medical alert tag. Administers basic or advanced first aid as well as emergency medical care to victims of fires, accidents, drowning, poisoning, drug overdose and other emergencies. Notifies dispatcher of need for additional medical help.

Performs overhaul and salvage operations in order to locate hot spots, extinguish hidden fires and protect property. Operates smoke ejectors, portable generators and emergency lighting needed at the scene. Removes burning items to reduce fire and smoke damage. Traps and removes water after fire is extinguished using catchalls, chutes, mops, siphons or other appropriate methods. Reads and recognizes HAZMAT symbols to identify flammable or hazardous materials. Removes containers of flammable or hazardous materials at the fire scene under direction of a superior officer. Acts to contain hazardous material spill or control spread. Locates and operates shut-off valves for gas, electricity, oil, and water in buildings to reduce hazard. Recognizes signs of arson, notifies officer in charge and preserves evidence. Secures burned building to protect from weather and vandalism. Extinguishes or controls grass and shrub fires by using tools, implements, portable hand pumps and fire extinguishers.

Performs regular maintenance on all firefighting tools and equipment to ensure they are in proper working order and ready for service. Cleans, dries, tests, inspects, and properly secures any assigned fire fighting equipment including fire apparatus, communications equipment, hoses, turn out gear, tools, portable breathing apparatus and ladders. Performs periodic tests of apparatus pumping capacity and pressure. Locates, removes, replaces and maintains inventory of tools and equipment on apparatus using knowledge or checklist to determine if any are missing or damaged. Inspects hydrants for defects and performs routine maintenance, flushing periodically as needed. Provides for the proper maintenance and function of the station and grounds by cleaning floors and windows, emptying trash cans, changing bed linens, cutting grass and performing other minor maintenance duties. Assists in preparing meals for firefighters at the station and cleans kitchen area. Provides for the security of the station by locking station doors and securing valuable items.

Participates in training drills and classroom training sessions. Reads and studies assigned materials including firefighting

training materials, technical firefighting manuals, and basic laws, regulations or updates related to performance of work. Participates in critical evaluations of departmental response to each fire. Practices with apparatus and equipment under supervision to increase and maintain proficiency. Studies direct routes, location of streets, water mains and hydrants in response area; takes proficiency tests. Participates in pre-fire planning inspections for both public and private properties. Completes daily maintenance checklist and any other forms, records, or reports as required. Makes entries in daily log for the department. Reports to work well-groomed, on-time and in proper attire. Maintains satisfactory interpersonal relationships with other department members. Receives telephone calls, assists visitors and conducts tours at the fire station.

Performs related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Unless otherwise specified, all requirements must be met by the filing deadline for application for admission to the examination.

Must meet all requirements of the Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Law, including being a citizen of the United States and of legal age.

After offer of employment, but before beginning work in this class, must pass a physical examination, the selection and administration of which shall be authorized by the Appointing Authority, designed to demonstrate good health and physical fitness sufficient to perform the essential duties of the position, with or without accommodation.

Applicant must possess one of the following: high school diploma, high school equivalency certificate, high school transcript, affidavit from the issuing high school, associate's or bachelor's degree, or college transcript, any one of which must indicate that graduation has occurred or a degree awarded. A certification of completion shall not be sufficient to substitute for a diploma or equivalency certificate.

Must have a valid driver's license.

Must not be less than eighteen (18) years of age.

Within one year of appointment, must acquire, and must thereafter maintain, certification as an Emergency Medical Technician in accordance with national and state standards. Within one year of appointment, must acquire certification as a Firefighter 1 according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards.